

Detailed Action

1. This Office Action is submitted in response to the amendment filed 2-4-2008, wherein claims 1-9, and 12-15 have been amended, new claims 16-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed

Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. The prior art discloses an electron beam irradiation apparatus that includes a gas flow chamber that passes through a solid shielding member, which is not a chamber. See for example, USPN 7,154,103 to Koenck. In addition, USPN 3,790,801 to Coleman, discloses a chamber inside a chamber with a web passing through, but does not include an electron beam. However, there is no motivation to combine these references.

4. Claims 1, 2, and 12-15 are allowed because prior art fails to show an electron beam apparatus having a web that passes through a second chamber inside a first chamber, with a supply of gas flowing in through both chambers in a direction opposite the travel of the web in order to ventilate the apparatus.

5. Claims 3-11, and 16-20 are allowed by virtue of their dependency upon allowed claims 1, 2, and 12-15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Phillip Johnston whose telephone number is (571) 272-2475. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiners supervisor Robert Kim can be reached at (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571 273 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/David A Vanore/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2881

PJ
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